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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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July 16, 1991

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Senior Reclamation Specialist *KWS*

RE: Site Inspection, Sahara Mine, Energy Fuels, M/015/026, Emery County, Utah

Date of Inspection: July 11, 1991

Time of Inspection: 12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Conditions: Hot, sunny

Participants: Neil Simmons, BLM; Holland Shepherd, DOGM

A claim holder, Mr. Scott Hill, who is part of a group who has filed claims at the Sahara site, contacted the Division and the BLM about a month ago, regarding the upcoming reclamation of the Sahara site. He was concerned that some areas not be reclaimed and wanted to assume responsibility for those areas and discuss that with the Division and the BLM and asked the Division to hold off reclamation until those decisions could be made. The site is scheduled for reclamation this summer by Energy Fuels, who is currently responsible for reclaiming and operating the mine site. The mine site has been inactive for about 5 or 6 years.

Mr. Hill asked that an access road be left in place that skirts around the main pad area and goes up the canyon. He also asked that a well and also some power lines be left intact on the site. He also discussed the need to leave the large mine dewatering ponds on site as a means of alleviating flood drainage that might later impact the highway if the dikes or dams were not left in place.

Mr. Simmons and I looked over the ponds and dikes fairly closely. We concluded that to leave the ponds in place would be more detrimental than to reclaim them. Drainage from the canyons has skirted around the ponds on both sides (there are two ponds), and created large erosion gullies on either side of the ponds. The ponds do not act, in any way, as a flood control facility and never was designed as a flood control facility. The ponds were designed to contain water that would be pumped

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out of the mine only. If the ponds are reclaimed, it would improve the drainage characteristics of the stream channel that it would reestablish. The old stream channel, if reestablished, will reduce the likelihood of flooding onto highway 24.

Last report from Mr. Hill is that he was looking for a bonding agency that would carry the surety on the mine site. We gave him a \$7,000 surety estimate last month.

jb
cc: Wayne Hedberg
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